

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

OP IMMED  
DE WTE #3944 1682105  
O 172030Z JUN 74  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOPRES006//

TO LES JANKA FOR GEN. SCOWCROFT (AMMAN)

UNCLAS WH41984

TOPRES006

JUNE 17, 1974

TO: LES JANKA WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY  
INFO: PETER RODMAN WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: KATHLEEN TROIA

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE AT 11:00 A.M. TODAY (JUNE 17, 1974). LEW THOMPSON  
WANTED THIS PASSED ON IMMEDIATELY FOR YOUR INFORMATION. FULL  
TEXT TO FOLLOW WHEN AVAILABLE.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO WE HAD SECRETARY KISSINGER  
TELLING US PRETTY CLEARLY THAT THE CHANCES FOR A SALT AGREEMENT  
ON OFFENSIVE WEAPONS WAS ALMOST OUT OF THE QUESTION. WE'VE  
HAD A SERIES OF REPORTS OUT OF NEGOTIATORS THE SOVIETS ARE  
HOLDING VERY TOUGH FOR A SIMPLE EXTENSION OF THE INTERIM  
AGREEMENT. NOW, HERE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT GOES TO  
THE SOVIET UNION WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CHANCES OF AN AGREEMENT IN  
PRINCIPLE IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT AREA OF MIRV TECHNOLOGY.  
HOW CAN YOU ASSURE US THAT THIS IS NOT IMPEACHMENT POLITICS --  
THE PRESIDENT DESPERATELY TRYING TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF SALT  
SO AS TO STRENGTHEN HIS HAND HERE IN CONGRESS AND WITH THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE?

A: I DON'T THINK THAT THE KIND OF ACTIONS THAT YOU DESCRIBE  
WOULD INDEED STRENGTHEN HIS HAND. I WOULD GO BACK TO WHAT I  
SAID EARLIER ABOUT THE PRESIDENT, THAT IN MY JUDGEMENT PRESIDENT  
NIXON WOULD DO NOTHING INTENTIONALLY THAT WOULD DAMAGE THE NATIONAL  
SECURITY. I RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE OUR DOMESTIC TURMOIL,

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

KENNEDY, MCFARLANE, TROIA, SEC FLE

PSN:021256 RECALLED PAGE 01 TOR:168/20:54Z DTG:172030Z JUN 74

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

BUT I THINK THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS A VISCERAL, INSTINCTIVE PATRIOT AND HIS ENTIRE HISTORY BEARS WITNESS TO THAT INSTINCTIVE PATRIOTISM. HE HAS NOT CHANGED IN THAT REGARD. AS I OBSERVED EARLIER, ONE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING BEFORE ONE LEAPS TO ANY CONCLUSIONS.

Q: MAY I FOLLOW UP ON THAT STATEMENT? YOU SAID I DON'T THINK THAT THE KIND OF ACTIONS YOU DESCRIBE WOULD STRENGTHEN HIS HAND. I TAKE IT YOU HOLD TO THE VIEW THAT ONLY BY TAKING A HARD LINE IN MOSCOW WOULD HELP THE PRESIDENT INSOFAR AS IMPEACHMENT POLITICS ARE CONCERNED BECAUSE THIS WOULD PLEASE THE CONSERVATIVES ON CAPITOL HILL?

A: NO, THAT WAS NOT MY INTENTION. I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE BACKED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN ANY REASONABLE AGREEMENT. WHAT I INFERRED FROM THE PRIOR QUESTION WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESIDENT IN PURSUIT OF AN AGREEMENT MIGHT ACCEPT AN UNREASONABLE AGREEMENT. I DON'T THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ANY INTENTION OF DOING SO IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, THAT THAT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO HIM.

Q: BECAUSE OF THE CONSERVATIVES ON CAPITOL HILL?

A: I THINK THAT IT SHOULD BE PUT IN TERMS OF THE OVERALL JUDGMENT OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PROGRESS IN MAINTAINING RELAXED RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BUT THEY WANT TO BE SURE THAT THERE IS A BALANCE IN THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THAT POSITION.

END TEXT

WARM REGARDS.  
0531

PSN:021256

RECALLED

PAGE 02

DF 02

TOR:168/20:54Z

DTG:172030Z JUN 74

\*\*\*\*\*U N C L A S S I F I E D\*\*\*\*\*S COPY